

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 OES-06 COME-00 NSF-01 ERDA-05

AGR-05 DOTE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAJ-01

HUD-01 FEAE-00 /057 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY:PG

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

EUR:JAARMITAGE

C:JMONTGOMERY

OES:WROOT

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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R 020826Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079488

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR UR

SUB SCHEDULING OF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

REF: STATE 064356, MOSCOW 4147, MOSCOW 2226

1. IN CONNECTION WITH AYKAZYAN'S APPROACH ON SCHEDULING JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO HIM, AND TO OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS, AS APPROPRIATE.

A. WE APPRECIATE AND AGREE WITH SOVIET DESIRE TO ARRANGE ORDERLY SCHEDULING OF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THESE MEETINGS HAVE VERY BUSY SCHEDULES AND MUST BE ABLE TO PLAN AHEAD. US OFFICIALS HAVE THE SAME CONCERN.

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B. UNDER THE HOUSING/OTHER CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT, INITIAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HAVE STILL TO MEET AND MAKE RECOM-

MENDATIONS FOR COOPERATIVE PROJECTS. MRS. HILLS, HUD SECRETARY AND US CO-CHAIRPERSON FOR THIS AGREEMENT, IS WRITING TO MR. NOVIKOV, URGING THAT THIS WORK BE COMPLETED FIRST, AFTER WHICH DATES FOR A JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING COULD BE DISCUSSED. THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF WORKING-LEVEL ISSUES STILL TO BE RESOLVED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENERGY AGREEMENT. WE WILL BE TAKING UP THESE AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND ELECTRIFICATION.

C. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO COOPERATION UNDER THESE AGREEMENTS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS NOW THE SCHEDULING OF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS. SUCH DISCUSSION COULD TAKE PLACE PERHAPS LATER THIS SPRING.

2. IN THE EVENT THE SOVIETS QUESTION WHETHER US UNWILLINGNESS AT THIS STAGE TO SET DATES FOR JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS IS RELATED TO FACTORS OTHER THAN DESIRE FOR MORE PREPARATORY WORK, EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR WE BELIEVE AGREEMENTS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF MUTUAL EFFORT TO STABILIZE AND IMPROVE RELATIONS AND MUST BE VIEWED IN THAT CONTEXT. WE FULLY INTEND TO PROCEED WITH SCHEDULED AND PLANNED WORKING-LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND WE ASSUME SOVIETS ALSO INTEND TO PROCEED WITH THESE ACTIVITIES. CABINET-LEVEL MEETINGS DEPEND ON PREPARATORY WORK, THE SCHEDULES OF THE PRINCIPALS INVOLVED, AND BOTH SIDES' ASSESSMENT OF THE OVERALL STATE OF OUR RELATIONS AT THE TIME.

3. IN EVENT EMBASSY RECEIVES PRESS QUERIES ON STATUS OF POSTPONEMENTS AND SOVIET RESPONSE TO OUR DECISIONS, EMBASSY SHOULD REFER QUESTIONS TO DEPARTMENT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE079488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SPOLANSKY:PG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760124-1110
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604103/aaaadkco.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 64356, 76 MOSCOW 4147, 76 MOSCOW 2226
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHEDULING OF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006